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MINUTES OF THE LIFE OF

WILLIAM SIZER, THE FIRST

BY

WILLIAM SIZER

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# From the Minutes of the Life of

# WILLIAM DIMON,* The First

Written by himself in the year 1770, from memory, until he was about seventeen years of age. After that, from a journal that he kept of his life.

I was the eighth son of Anthony Dimon and Sarah Dimon. I was born in 1743, December 12th, old style, or new style December 23, in Middle Town, Connecticut, at a place called South Farms, about four miles from the metropolis of the town.

My father died September 21, 1755 (?) (apparently an error either in the year or his age- W. A. D.) when I was in my seventh year. My mother was left a widow with but a small income to support a number of children. My sister Mary was married to Jacob Fletcher † before my father died. My eldest brother Jabez in Barbina Harbor the summer before my father died. My brother Abel married Sarah Mitchel in July before my father died. There was at this time the following children living that exceed my mother's family; Daniel, Samuel, Sarah, Anthony, Jemima, Hannah and myself. Daniel and Samuel married in the course of about two years.

I was at this time what with propriety may be called a poor fatherless child. With respect to my education, I had but a small share of schooling as schools at that day were very ordinary. I perfectly recollect going to a woman's school the summer before my father died but went with very great reluctance. I also went to a woman's school the summer after my father died but was so much opposed to the school that, with the assistance of my sister, Jemima, I often stayed all day with some of my cousins that lived on the road and returned home unsuspected by my mother.

In the winter I was seven years of age (see discrepancy in age in second paragraph, above- W.A.D.) I went to school to a master. At this school, by the advice of my master, I was put to writing, which at that (time) was exceedingly nasty, as pens were not put to writing until they were ten and upwards. As I had a great inclination for writing, I was encouraged some to go to school and learned fast, especially in winter. After this, I went to school three or four months and lived with my mother. But just before I was ten years of age I lived two months with Mr. John Blain at the north end of town.

But I was in my eleventh year, my mother married again to John Clark of Middletown, upper houses. I lived with her through the winter; the next summer with my brother Daniel and had the fever and ague. My brother lived at Miller's Farms. In the winter I went to school to William Starr. I lived with brother Daniel two summers and one winter.

I [illegible] to my father-in-law's (?) [illegible] went to a writing school, [illegible] Hannah Bigelow, [illegible].

term plot. I was to have gone to evening school but was put to work at night-cuddy, so lost to my inclination. Once I owned a very fine racing eel-boat. I did not ask much time, only at supper. I was diligent, from October to March, to work in the shop until nine o'clock, constantly. I continued there until April 1731 and left him.

I then lived with my brother-in-law, Jacob Fletcher, during the winter. In October, I went to live with my brother Joel, who was my guardian. He being in the coasting business, I went on the water with him. I went several times to Long Island, New London and Stratford. During his time of service in carried numerous hurricanes by gales of wind and having our vessel cast away on Long Island.

In the winter of 1708, being in my nineteenth year, I went to live with Fletcher Bowne of Hillsdale, under bonds, to serve as apprenticeship at house joiner, shop joiner, cabinet maker and painter. I had a very [illegible] it is [illegible] in winter. [illegible] and [illegible] winter season, I was very much pleased and pleased for pleasure, particularly at supper and breakfast, as the apprentices are by themselves at those times; also was very finely clothed in winter. I was kept very constant at labor. This was best for me. I was allowed one evening in a week during the winter season to go where I would or to please myself. The other evenings I worked for my master. I still retained to [illegible] of my time, although there was an [illegible] in the trade, in [illegible] I was over him in the trade and never could [illegible] my apprenticeship. I enjoyed, I had a very good opportunity to [illegible] of my time in the different branches taught by means of my master trusting me [illegible] more in the work in his absence, and by various and different persons.

On the 2nd day of November, 1707, I was of age, that is, I was twenty-one years old. One particular circumstance I must not here omit, but keep it [illegible] of [illegible] carried to some of my relations, that [illegible] I was in expectation, you doubtless have observed what I was [illegible] to work my time, [illegible] dream one night in the week, [illegible], I had a very poor [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] to make up this deficiency and make [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I made use of all my [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

instruct a school. I remained with great reluctance and diffidence. It was held in a place called Long Hill in Middletown in the neighborhood of my birthplace. I instructed the school three months. In April, 1769, I resumed working at my trade and had a very good employ, and made my home at my father-in-law's, Mr. John Clark. During winter my employ[illegible] forced an unwilling[illegible] my present wife, [illegible] decision of a [illegible] of my life, [illegible] living in tolerable good business, concluded it best and married her.

(Note- Here again occurs the peculiar use of the term father-in-law in referring to his step-father. In the opening of the next paragraph it will be noted that his father-in-law's name was Mr. Pernels Dixon)
W. A. Dixon.

I lived at his father's, Mr. Pernels Dixon, Middletown upper houses, until Oct 6, 1769. I then removed with [illegible] house-bearing to a house adjacent. During the winter I worked at my trade in 1769. This summer I worked at my trade until December. I then subscribed and instructed a school in Northfield, Rocky Hill, about two months. Then I resumed my trade and continued until the next winter when I instructed a school in Middletown, upper houses, near the meeting house, five months. In the spring I began and instructed a school in the upper district three months. Then I worked with [illegible] assisting build boats for sea-fish.

June 2 , 1770, I went to Derby in Connecticut to work with brother [illegible] building boats, [illegible] doing future work on vessels and continued there until the 20th of December. [illegible] the following season to do the joiner work of one brig, one sloop, a new house here and built two or three boats for vessels and generally rode on sailed a lot. During the winter winter, worked at different kinds [illegible]

(Note - Here five is here missing in the dates copied by the writer. A part five (no numbered) had been inserted but it is a repetition of some of the foregoing. W. A. Dixon.)

[illegible] 1773, [illegible] started, I began to instruct a school in [illegible] center of Middletown near the church (being the oldest school in town). I began on the 14th of [illegible] for [illegible] only, the rate of forty pounds a month. After [illegible] while [illegible] , I engaged [illegible] to work.

[illegible] first arrived, I was so [illegible] to enter into the various but unsettled matters [illegible] settled between England and America, and [illegible] I cannot [illegible] only [illegible] of [illegible] than the other people, therefore, I declined the service then but I [illegible] judgment [illegible]; however, instead of a short duration as I expected, the war continued. My mind inclining, on October 6th, I visited our native home, Middletown, and all the [illegible]. I continued instructing a school until December 1. I then agreed to instruct for one year for 60 pounds. In 1776, June 10th, I removed my family from the upper to the lower house,

boin the comber or retropolis. My family consisted of seven, (having five children).

1776. During the course of this spring, I was appointed a Lieutenant for the militia army by General Assembly, and began to enlist men for the service; but the small pox; children I was instructing rude me from carrying out by having the school, that together with some of my relations, they persuaded me to refrain. I did this with reluctance and have always since been sorry for my mind was in the army.

I continued school till the 13th of August when I joined the militia as a volunteer. They being ordered to New York to defend that place against the British. I then did it a decisive battle would then ensue and I could not bear to have the war concluded and not have a share in defending my country. During this long campaign I served Col. Wetmore Select Co. (?) in his reg. (?) and Lt. Colonel Hurlbut three (5th). (There was a break in continuity) and was sent to Long Island and were in the retreat there, also out of New York when the British took possession of New York. I was taken ill with dysentery, contrary to my wishes and on the 3d of October, set out for home in company with many others that were sick, and took passage at Dixon River by water and arrived at Middletown on the 14th of the same month but continued sick until the 7th of October, when I began to instruct the school again and continued until the year expired that I had engaged.

1777. Having agreed to instruct the school six months longer at seventy-two pounds ten shillings a year, I continued in it through the winter. I was promoted to Lt. Col. of the regiment and on the 26th of April marched with my regiment to New Haven- the British having moved to Danbury in Connecticut burnt the store. General Lester was killed at this movement.

June 26, 1777, the time of my engagement in school being expired, I dismissed it. I was determined to enter the service of my country. July 20, 1777, I marched to New Haven, there being an alarm, but nothing special happened. July 24, I received orders as first Lieutenant in the Regiment of Lt. Col. Chauncey Whittlesey Fifth Painter with recruiting orders, to [illegible], I received with Col. Whittlesey's regiment for Peekskill. [illegible]. This march was occasioned by the British taking Fort Montgomery and Clinton on the Hudson. During my stay at Peekskill, I enlisted a number of men for the army and returned home the 17th of the same month- Burgoyne and army taken the same last.

Nov. 23, 1777. This day I was 37 years of age. I set out to join our regt at Dunbury and arrived at Danbury the 28th, at Bethels society (?) with my [illegible], and was quartered at Mr. Winter quarters. Dec. 2, 1778 on [illegible] (?) Dec. 10, 1778 being ordered on a recruiting service, I set out for home; on the 14th arrived at Middletown. Feb. 23, I went into inoculation for the small pox in Westfield society, under the care of Dr. Hallock.

March 19th, returned home having only thirty men.

April 10th getting for Danbury and arrived on the 12th. arrived at Danbury on the 21st. I continued there until the 17th(?) when they marched for [illegible] where we were station- ed, arrived on the 19th [illegible] on the 2nd. On our route Inoculated four men with pocket-knife & carried them well through the small-pox with butternut juice made into pills by boiling the juice.

May 10th, our men were restored. I took the rank of Captain from May 7th. A court of inquiry met to inquire into the conduct of all our officers by order of Gen. Arnold. We were all honorably acquitted.

June 10th, being promoted by Col. Shy, County Quarter- master General, I [illegible] for Headquarters at Valley Forge on business to Gen. Green. I rode on the [illegible] in the Jerseys, and came up with [illegible] army in Monmouth, who had retreated from Valley Forge and were in pursuit of General Clinton's army. [illegible] the 27th, the [illegible] Monmouth battle took place. After hearing the business with Gen. Knox [illegible] army by Cornwall in the Jerseys, I set out for Pittsfield and arrived there the 10th.

August 7th (Date not clear) our company moved to Fort Point until Nov. 10, then entered a furlough, [illegible] on the 10th arrived at Middleton to my family. I continued at home until Dec. 14th and set out for the army at West Point and arrived there on the 18th, 1779.

Not having obtained the privileges granted the officers of our corps [illegible] stored the service, I drew a petition to Gen. Green [illegible] Congress on behalf of the officers, and, on the 27th of Feb., I set out for Philadelphia which were then at Valley Forge on Board B-ook in the Jerseys. On my way, I crossed the [illegible] arrived at Philadelphia on the 6th of March. I delivered our petition to Gen. Green. [illegible] Congress to fulfill the [illegible] on the 10th, I arrived at Philadelphia, and on the 11th, waited on the President of Congress, delivered the Board [illegible] letter of the officer's petition. I returned my business, left the [illegible] on the 14th, I set out for headquarters on foot, arriving [illegible] on the 16th, I set out for West Point on foot, on the 17th. On the 19th, I set out for West Point on foot, arrived on the 22d, passing through the Jerseys on the Morrison road.

May 30th, the British came up North River to Kings Ferry and attacked our block-house. After continuing the seige until 3rd inst. the block-house was [illegible] and after bold resistance. On 3rd inst, I received orders from Gen. Parsons to retreat to Continental Village during [illegible] our baggage to retreat to Continental Village and I arrived on the 5th. On the 6th, I set out for Horse Neck and arrived on the 7th. July 8th, the British attacked, took [illegible] Now Haven, I went as volunteer to defend it but the enemy quit it on the 9th. Sixty-two of our men were killed and so

were wounded. On the 14th, there being an alarm, I joined the militia and went to New Haven, there being adjutant duty to Col. Wyllys's army, then returned home. Five of our people killed during Forty.

August 10th, I set out in pursuit of deserters in vain. On the 12th, arrived at Colchester to John Dolton who was formerly my Lieutenant. On the 13th, returned to Middletown. Sept. 8th, (after having been on hand to carry a number of deserters), I set out for the army at Dyer Point and arrived there on the 9th. On this tour, I had a horse and waiter furnished. On the 14th, the French disembarked at Dyer Point. October 8th, I took command of three companies and removed to Pinehill Landing to build boats for an expedition to New York. After having built forty-two boats, we again returned to Dyer Point, November 20th.

December 26th, 1779, I was made a free Mason in Washington Lodge # 10, held at West Point; General John Patterson, Master.

March 20th, 1780, I set out for home on a recruiting service in company with Captain James Miller. April 2nd, returned to Middletown.

When the war commenced, Congress made Continental Bills (in order to carry on the war) that passed very well for several years. But at this time it had got very much depreciated, and, for the amusement of the reader, I will here state the most of several articles as I purchased them on April 12, 1780. I paid Major Starr, a tailor, for making a regimental coat, one hundred continental dollars. This was a Captain of Artificers' pay for two months and twenty dollars more than a Captain in the line received for two months. Thirty dollars for half a pound of tea; for dinner and lodging at Hartford, ten dollars; eight dollars for the raising of a wind; thirty-three and a half dollars for pasturing my cow for one month; fifty dollars for two cows; seven dollars a pound for brown sugar; forty dollars for half a bushel of rock; one dollar and one-third for fresh pork; five dollars for half a mug of toddy, and all other articles in proportion.

April 22, 1780, by orders from Governor Trumbull(?) [illegible], I was sent to Hartford and received one dollar of said state to pull soldiers. I in money was a very bank put out by Connecticut to be on par with silver, however, in the course of one year it depreciated three for one. May 20th, I attended the grand assembly at Hartford, being agent for our town to obtain liberties for ourselves and for our families, viz; a certain portion each of provisions to be supplied us for [illegible] the old prices as have [illegible] from our [illegible], [illegible] to be delivered to us in the city, as [illegible], [illegible], at a little price (these points not fully explained.)

June 12th, I again attended the assembly at Hartford on the above business and continued there until the 16th, being detained on public and private business. I continued at home until July 5th, then set out for the army in company with Capt. David Starr, and arrived there on the 20th. We traveled on foot. I had a horse that carried our baggage and ----- (Here occurs a phrase that is meaningless and apparently a mistake in copying from the original M. A. S. ) I continued in performing our usual duties, overseeing the building of barracks, forts, redoubts and all kinds of camp equipage, carriages for guns, platforms etc.

On Sept. 23d, I was ordered by Col. May, Deputy Quarter-Master General, to proceed up the North River to Livingston's Patent ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ to purchase timber to build barracks on the Point. I pursued my route by water, rowed by six men, to eleven miles below Albany. Next day, having performed the business, I returned to West Point on the 30th. During this tour I lodged on the ground two nights on Red Hook Island, and one night at Claverie Landing where the city of Hudson now stands. At that day there were but two houses of note.

While I was absent on the above tour, Gen. Benedict Arnold turned traitor and made his escape to a British ship lying below Kings Ferry. I continued on at West Point doing duty as usual until Jan. 7th, 1781. I then received a furlough from Gen. William Heath, until the next April, and then set out for home in company with Capt. Robert Warner of Middletown and my waiter. Arrived at Middletown on the 11th.

February 6th, I went to Weathersfield to assist in settling depreciation (?) of our regiment that belonged to Connecticut. At this time our regiment was commanded by Col. Johnathan Baldwin of Brookfield, Mass., and consisted of eleven companies. On the 27th, I returned Weathersfield after having finished my accounts and presented them to the commandant in behalf of the State. There arose a dispute between them and me respecting our wages, the artificers wages being higher than the line of the army, it being equal to that of the artillery. March 6th, on account of this, I applied to the General Assembly by petition and obtained my request. I delivered my accounts to the Committee of the State and returned home March 9th. April 30th, I went to Weathersfield and met General Wadsworth, one of the State Committee on the depreciation, who informed me that the Assembly had revoked the resolve that had passed in the artificer's favor, consequently the settlement made was of no avail.

May 1781, at the season of the Assembly, I applied again to them by petition for the same grant that had before obtained, and attended eight or ten days at different times, but the Assembly arose without doing anything in our favor.

About this time I had official advice that our regiment being reduced in numbers by the three years men's time [illegible] the command was reduced to Major. The Colonel [illegible] two months.

...ept. 8th, General Arnold, the traitor, having assault-
ed this fort and burned New London, occasioned an alarm I went
as volunteer, with Col. ...'s regiment of Militia to
Killingworth and Guilford. I did Adjutant's duty and returned
home on the 12 th.

Sept. 25th, 1781, I visited the army at West Point,
returned on the 12th of October. On the 17th of October,
General Cornwallis with his army and navy, surrendered to
General Washington, this closed the war with Great Britain.

During during my services in the army obtained
considerable knowledge in the scale and valve brass business,
during the winter just past I turned quite a little brass and
table and tea spoons, having as much as I could do.

In September, 1783, I discovered an advertisement in
a paper concerning a farm for sale in Burrillville (now
called Harris); on the 24th I set out to view said farm.
I rode by brother Daniel's, then living in East Springfield,
Mass., and he accompanied me and viewed said farm then owned by
Isaac Bissel.

I did not altogether like the farm, but the pay being
such as I could raise, I had a mind to purchase it, and returned
home without completing any bargain. October 10th, I set out
with Gen. ... Blackman for Burrillville, he having an inclination
to purchase the above farm with me. On the 10th, arrived
at Burrillville, viewed the farm and concluded to purchase it,
also on the account of my ... On the 2 d, we rode to
Harrisville; 24th to Chesterfield; 26th, I married with him.
he for Middlefield and I for Middletown, where I arrived on
the 30th. Dec. 3d, Capt. Blackman and I set out for Burry-
field; arrived on the 4th, completed the bargain with Isaac
Bissel. I purchased the farm but Blackman was to be partner;
he pay ... Dols. I paid public obligations obtained for
services in the army. We returned for Middletown on the 6th.

March 30th, news of peace with Britain.

During the remainder of my stay at Middletown, I
was crowded with work at Blacksmithing. ... out to
mow to Chester, I made preparation. ... 11th, I loaded my
goods on two carts to Chester, and on the 17th, set off with two
carriages with my family, ... I left Middletown, there was
in ... the first ... ; ... left Middletown, there was
great rejoicing on account of peace being concluded with Great
Britain. On the 19th, located in the edge of Westfield; on the
19th arrived and we began housekeeping.

I immediately applied myself to farming, having no
help of consequence, my ... oldest son being in his fifteenth year;
however, ... ... by ... ... ... ...
... L. Blackman also with his carriage to assist moving.

June 12th, I with Cent. Miner and others, went to Kenyon's point, Lake George, where we received a township of land, lot No. 1 in the 1st range, being between eighteen and nineteen miles from Lake George. We returned by the way of Fort Edward, and I sold out my location, gaining $100. by the transfer. The town is now called Freehold.

July 9th, I went to Middletown to assist Capt. Blackman to remove on the 11th, and he lived together in one house for more than two years. [illegible] and built a chimney and a door, and within and a loft or [illegible] and helped a clear and a door, but I and the children [illegible] the ague in Middletown being bad; we returned [illegible] I continue this to [illegible] I [illegible] days and visited us.

In August, brother Samuel helped me repair a saw-mill that was on the place, also the mill dam, and I did good business at it. In Nov. 4th, I rented a saw frame 20 ft. by 12 ft., for myself and Abraham, and finished it. Nov. 20th, I began to saw. Abraham left home. [illegible] the mill, [illegible] all kinds of [illegible] and [illegible] allowed me $1000, should not cover [illegible] raised us little corn that we had [illegible] purchase the ensuing year.

1784, March 17th. The past winter was very severe, the snow three feet on a level. I spent much of my time making pails, tubs, wood and timber out of my cattle. 1786, during the [illegible] I spent my winters [illegible] chief of my business was [illegible] occasionally carried. I [illegible] myself to [illegible] and two other [illegible] and others; [illegible] to Middletown on a visit, [illegible] sister I found at [illegible] but little - put [illegible] not [illegible] Lawrence [illegible] to the [illegible] or the [illegible] to be [illegible] fences. In the fall of the year we [illegible] a new cellar, built new chimney. [illegible] able. Also [illegible] in the town and near the meeting house.

1785. Dec. 17th, Capt. Blackman and wife and myself all went [illegible] to Middletown on a visit. [illegible] last [illegible] to help [illegible] county town. In the month of [illegible] wood from [illegible] mills, on Glen, [illegible]

improvements, and I reclaimed all the rest of the land, three lots of one hundred rods each. (sic.) With, I removed the stone fence standing and I had built, to the place where it now stands, additions being made, to suit my dwelling house. During the winter I cleared about four acres of land and sowed it, also making a cellar, building a chimney, improving the house.

1786. I removed into my present dwelling house January 10th. 1787. As I went to East Springfield to help brother Samuel build a schooner of fifty tons; continued so work until she was launched. Went over to Suffield April 27th. Also helped brother Samuel build a boat for the use of the schooner. Worked White, Hubbard, Ashley, Abbe, Allis and Capt. Burt owned the vessel. In the autumn season I turned entirely at farming, cleared more land and sowed, but my crops were so light I was obliged to work out from home to obtain provisions and necessaries for my family.

1787. This year is remarkable on account of what is called Shay's war, a rebellion taking place against the laws of the state. On the 17th of January, I was to rendezvous with Major General Lincoln's army, to stop the progress of Shay and his party of about two hundred insurgents, assembled in arms at an adjacent town; also to protect the Continental arsenal of stores at Springfield. Government men were about eight hundred strong. I did not go; but to Col. Lee's regiment, also Brewer's. On the 25th, I set out with the [illegible] in order to take the hill. We encountered them [illegible] shot from two field pieces which caused them not only to retreat but to run with the utmost disorder, leaving two dead and two mortally wounded on the field. I continued in this service (and a precarious hard service it was, being extremely cold and much fatigued in cruel transactions) until Febr. 7th. I was then discharged and returned home.

March 12, 1787. I was chosen a selectman and assessor. May 7th, I went to East Springfield to catch a shad on the fall, remained there fishing until the 22nd; poor luck, obtained only one hundred and fifty. Sun lit, I settled all accounts with Capt. Blakeman and gave him a deed of my farm. Both spoken of chief employment was farming. I built a dam for a saw mill, also cleared the lot now called Mill Field. I also did considerable business in town affairs.

1788. During the last year the Constitution of the United States was carried in favor [illegible] first President. March 4, 1789, I was elected selectman, assessor and town treasurer. By reason of my being chosen to said offices [illegible] Lieut. Abijah Abbe & his brother Stanley (who filled those places before) were very much offended and endeavored to injure (me) every way in their power and that collector (?) joined them and their malice has continued to the present day, always appreciating my faults and depreciating my real worth.

March 2 9th, a [illegible] Nov. 10th, I raised the

frame for a new saw-mill. During the last season, husbandry was my chief employment; but sorrowfully to my trouble. I spent thirty days in hauling lumber for the town, as no track a new valuation this season and the chief writing was done by me.

June 24th, (probably 1788) I came to North Hampton and kept ... Dill's at ... Penny's. I was chosen senior warden.

March 1, 1790, was chosen town treasurer. April 10th being after militia for Hinsby Eaton's mill, Capt. Blake's dog entered at my home which ran up my breast, threw me and dislocate my left shoulder which has ever since disabled me from labor at husbandry. July 20th and 30th, I raised a barn frame 40 ft. by 32 ft. My brother Abig have injured so very much but I completed my work in time. I raised corn corn but not enough for the supply of my family.

Feb. 5, 1791. Went to Middletown in sleigh with Capt. Lucian to obtain the settlement of my father's property. March 7th, was chosen town treasurer. Dec. 5, I raised the timber (lean to) or mill ... to my present dwelling house.

April 10th, (1792 ?) being unable to perform hard labor on account of my lame shoulder and after troubled with rheumatism, I took the office of Deputy Sheriff under Elisha Potter, sheriff of Hampshire Co. April 10th, I attended the court of common pleas at North Hampton. Was duly ... county sheriff. July 6th, I kept ... (Jay) at Stamford. In this season I was employed in business as county sheriff, having left the care of my farm to my son William Dyer, Jr.

Jan. 10th, (1793 ?), I attended the court at Springfield; was duly ... sheriff. Dec. 31st, went to North Hampton and attended on the court as county sheriff. June 24th, I attended St. John's at Stamford having formed a lodge at Cap. ... Church's at which lodge I was master. Sept. 30, attended court at North Hampton as deputy sheriff. During ... my farm to my son William, I took no care of farming business but devoted my time almost entirely to my official business as deputy sheriff.

April 20 th, 1794 attended supreme court at North Hampton. Sept. of ..., attended the common court of pleas. 10th of August, I rode to ... and attended installation of lodge of Masons. Sept. 2nd, I attended court of common pleas at North Hampton and the remainder time of the court. Sept. 30, attended the supreme court as usual. * Dec. 24th, ... that year my business has been in the official way as deputy sheriff.

Jan. 13, 1795. Attended the court of common pleas at North Hampton as usual. Feb. 24th, went to Middletown in a sled & was detained ... Mason in moving his family to Chester.

April 30th, attended the Supreme Court at North Hampton as [illegible]. May 1st. Attended court of common pleas at North[illegible]. Hampton. May 2nd. After several hours' trial at court, and at [illegible] in this town, being opposed by the town, I obtained [illegible] a road laid out as a turnpike, through Thomas Stone's land to the river as we ride to Philip's Village - this road bears the name of the first road to this day - viz. [illegible]. June 24th. Attended St. John's at Adam Wright's ; also I was delivered an oration to the large number. July 4th. Short history and that families celebrated Independence at A. Wright's in this town.

1760, March 14th, the Federal Lodge, of which I was Master, was installed in Chester Lodging House in public, it being the first lodge installed in public, in the State. On Oct. 15th, I attended the installation of Hamby (Harmony ?) Lodge in Northfield and acted as deputy grand master.

March 6th (1767 ?), Gen. J. Porter, the sheriff of the county died; consequently, my jurisdiction under him expired, since which time I have attended my farm.

Nov. 20, 1769, I being appointed assistant assessor for a direct tax throughout the union, took oath prescribed and proceeded in the business, which took me about thirty-five days to complete.

May 1st, 1770. I attended the installation of the Jerusalem Lodge in North Hadley. I acted as Master, under Isah Thomas, D. M. P. I.

(Attached to the foregoing Diary of William Bixer, without binding.)



The desire of my having of the Genealogy of the family for my posterity, and the different branches of my father's family as much as possible, is the reason that they of me had not before been made known to them. For this they never saw, did not desire me to, but they may be assured they all proceed from one parent of the family, as there was never but one born in London bearing my father's name, and it will appear plain enough, as the end of the name since my father, when it is compared with the original name, after his arrival in London and altered from the original, as you will find in the account of him in the following (?) Genealogy and historical sketch.

Anthony Bixer was unfortunate of Parish extraction, although born in another kingdom- this will not only appear by noting his examination, but particularly in the original name, as many Frenchmen bear the name he originally did.

Anthony Bixer was born on an island in the kingdom of Portugal, called Terceira, in North Latitude 38 degrees 55 minutes, and West Longitude from London 26 degrees and 44 minutes. Being by profession a Sailor, he used to go to and fro to and from America, he shipped on board of a vessel bound to Boston about the first of May, 1728. He was then 18 or 19 years of age- from thence he sailed into Connecticut River to Middletown. He soon became acquainted with my mother, Sarah Brown, the daughter of Abel Brown, a very worthy and wealthy farmer, living in Middletown, one mile south of the Plat on the main street called South Farm Hill. He lived to a very advanced age.

I shall here give my father's original name, and state the reason of his being driven. His original name was Anthony De Bocium or De Boceum, which way it is spelled I cannot, at present, ascertain or whether either is right. Men skilled in the French language say it is a French name but differ in the spelling of it. At his arrival in this country he could speak but few English. Whether his name was altered before or after the marriage, I cannot say. As I observed, he was born a Roman Catholic. My father was married on the 10th day of May, 1737, in about one year after his arrival in New England.

The reason of his altering his name was this. Several people advised him to anglish his name, or in other words, to have him put into English and so by it. My father seeing no inconvenience in making the alteration and willing to gratify his acquaintance, went to Deacon William Bidwell, who was then clerk in Middletown, and left it with the clerk to anglish his original name and make a record of it. Mr. Bidwell then called it Bixer instead of De Boceum and recorded it, from which time my father's children name Bixer and all his posterity have gone by the same name.

(Sketch attached to Diary of William Dyer, Con't)



My father was a man about five feet, ten inches in height, very stout build, a very fair complexion, black curly hair and black eyes. Naturally cold in his temper and very sociable. He was well informed and provided, of great spirit and determination.

He enforced the religion of the land in which he dwelt; of a cool temperament in his family, of exemplary life and conversation and true to his trust.

Much discourse of him, I have had given to me by those who were well acquainted with him and many of his age, those have informed me since his death and since I arrived to years of manhood.

I shall now insert the Genealogy of my father's family as I received and took it off the records of Middletown.

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Note. Unfortunately the genealogical record mentioned was not there on the copy used by the writer in making these copies. Should anyone receiving this, or any user of the collection of the records mentioned, the present writer will greatly appreciate it if the information is sent to him (address below) or to the Curator- Mrs. Albert A. Dyer, Jr., Lincoln, Nebraska or Corpus Christi, Texas.

In copying the foregoing, the writer has followed the exact language of the copy (a rather indistinct carbon) the exact language of the copy (a rather indistinct carbon) used, and only changes being in paragraphing & now the text may be read, and, in some instances, to set off each year by itself.

The notes inserted are self-explanatory.

Attached is a copy of the Revolutionary War Records Division form received by Albert A. Dyer, Jr., in response to his inquiry concerning the Revolutionary War record of William Dyer.

William A. Dyer,
4400 Knudsen Road,
Chicago, Illinois.

October V, 1934.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

# WILLIAM WELLS OF SOUTHOLD

## AND HIS DESCENDANTS,

## A. D. 1638 TO 1878.

BY THE REV.

CHARLES WELLS HAYES.

CANON OF ST. LUKE'S CATHEDRAL, PORTLAND, ME.; CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY; MEMBER OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

BAKER, JONES & CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS.

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# NOTE G.

## THE SIZER FAMILY.

ANTHONY DE ZOCIEUR, a Frenchman, b. of wealthy parents on the Island of Terceira, in the Dominion of Portugal, 1707, a sailor, came to Middletown, Conn., and there d. Sept. 21, 1753: m. Middletown, May 10, 1727, *Sarah Tryon*, dau. of Abel Tryon (perh. same as Trians, Saybrook 1667, v. Savage, IV. 330) of Middletown, and on this marriage assumed the name of SIZER. He had 10 s. 2 dau.,—Mary, Jabez, Anthony, Abel, Daniel, Lemuel, Sarah, Anthony, Jemima, Samuel, William, 1 s. d. inf.

SAMUEL, 7th s. of Anthony, b. Middletown, Nov. 12, 1746, d. there 1823, m. April 30, 1767, *Abigail Mitchell* of Wallingford, Conn., and had 5 s. 2 dau., Samuel, Anna, Rebecca, Samuel, Joel, s. d. inf., Asa Bill.

ASA BILL, 5th and youngest son of Samuel, b. June 5, 1780, d. Nov. 22, 1829. m. Dec 25, 1801, *Elizabeth Starr*, dau. of Elihu Starr of Middletown, confirmed March 28, 1802, d. Jan. 22, 1817. They had 1 s. 2 dau., Mary B., Henry Huntington, Anna Maria (d. inf.).

HENRY HUNTINGTON, only son of Asa B., b. May 8, 1804, d. Buffalo, N. Y., June 28, 1849, an early and prominent merchant of Buffalo; m. Utica, N. Y., Sept. 8, 1830, *Mary Elizabeth Whiting*,* dau. of Henry Starr Whiting and Sarah Canfield, who d. Buffalo, Aug. 24, 1874. They had 2 s. 4 dau.

1. *Evelyne*, b. June 20, 1833, m. Nov. 29, 1854, Richard Hilliard of Cleveland, O.
2. *Henry Starr*, b. March 1, 1837, d. Sept. 17, 1870.
3. SARA ELIZABETH, b. Jan. 22, 1839, d. Buffalo, Sept. 16, 1868, m. Buffalo, April 22, 1858, ROBERT PLINY HAYES, q. v. p. 140

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*FREDERICK JONES WHITING, b. Norwich, Conn., July 5, 1759, d. Danbury, Conn., Oct. 7, 1804, a Lieut. in Conn. Line in the Revolution, and afterwards Member of the Society of the Cincinnati, m. May 8, 1783, *Ursula*, dau. Major Samuel *Starr* of Danbury, [illegible] there May 8, 1750, d. Hartford, N. Y., July 7, 1815. Their eldest son, HENRY STARR WHITING, [illegible] Fort Plain, N. Y., March 20, 1795, d. Herkimer, Aug. 10, 1824, m. New Milford, Conn., May 8, 1818, *Sarah*, gr. dau. Col. Samuel *Canfield*, b. New Milford. Mary Elizabeth, wife of Henry H. Sizer, was the 2d ch. of Henry S. Whiting. An incomplete but valuable account of this family is given in Goodwin's Genealogical Notes.

4. *Mary Louise*, b. Aug. 28, 1840, d. Feb. 14, 1845.

5. *William Seaul*, b. March 22, 1843; m. Nov. 15, 1870, Susan S. Sears, dau. of Selim Sears of Buffalo.

6. *Clara Augusta*, b. May 5, 1845; m. April 12, 1871, Albert J. Barnard of Buffalo.

(Com. by Wm. S. Sizer, of Buffalo.)

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